

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/343,929

Examiner

Qi Han

Applicant(s)

STUERMER, THOMAS

Art Unit

2654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/13/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,6-8 and 10-15.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 June 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendments

1. This communication is responsive to the applicant's amendment dated 10/13/2004.

Applicant amended claims 1 and 10, and canceled claims 9 and 16.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see pages 5-6 of the amendment, with respect to amended independent claims 1 and 10 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-3 and 6-16 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 10-15 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent **claims 1 and 10**, the instant application is directed to a method and apparatus for the automatic generation of a textural expression from a semantic representation. Each independent claim identifies the uniquely distinct features of building a statistical model having a decision tree from a plurality of pre-determined pairs of semantic representations and associated expressions, including determining which information in an external format is present in a negative list and which information in the external format is absent in the negative list, wherein the negative list describes information in the external format that is irrelevant to the statistical model (for claim 1), or that is damaging to the statistical model (for

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claim 10); and producing a first associated expression from a first semantic representation using the statistical model.

4. The prior art of record, Masegi et al. (US 5,369,574), Wachtel (US 5,870,701), Brown et al. (US 5,477,457) and Sproat (US 5,906,032), provided numerous teachings of generating a sentence from an inputted semantic representation based on the stored limitation (non-statistical model), natural language processing in that the output is dependent upon the meaning of group of input words, sense-labeling transducers using statistical model or decision tree, and combining the use of decision tree for linguistic modeling and the use of finite-state transducers, in speech and natural language processing system. However, the combined features, as stated above, are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over the prior art of the record.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Please address mail to be delivered by the United States Postal Service (USPS) as follows:

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Effective January 14, 2005, except correspondence for Maintenance Fee payments, Deposit Account Replenishments (see 1.25(c)(4)), and Licensing and Review (see 37 CFR 5.1(c) and 5.2(c)), please address correspondence to be delivered by other delivery services (Federal Express (Fed Ex), UPS, DHL, Laser, Action, Purolator, etc.) as follows:

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Qi Han whose telephone numbers is (571) 272-7604. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil, can be reached on (571) 272-7602.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Inquiries regarding the status of submissions relating to an application or questions on the Private PAIR system should be directed to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028 between the hours of 6 a.m. and midnight Monday through Friday EST, or by e-mail at: ebc@uspto.gov. For general information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

QH/qh
July 14, 2005


DAVID D. KNEPPER
PRIMARY EXAMINER